



Issue 2006-09, Released 09/13/06

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THANK YOU

to all the producers who participated in our recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

*Agriculture Prices
Sept. Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
Agricultural Labor*

SHEEP AND LAMB PRICES LOWER

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during August was 127 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 4 points (3 percent) from July and up 2 points (2 percent) from August 2005. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes

The **All Livestock Index**, at 133, was up 7 points (6 percent) from July but unchanged from August 2005. The steer and heifer price and the cow price were above last month, but calf, sheep, and lamb prices were down. Cow, sheep, and lamb prices were down from this time last year, but steer and heifer prices and calf prices were higher. Cow prices averaged 70 cents above July but \$3.10 lower than August 2005. Steer and heifer prices were up \$1.00 from last month and up \$6.00 from last year's price. Calf prices were down \$2.00 from July but \$2.00 higher than August 2005. Sheep prices were \$1.20 below July and \$22.10 below last year's price. Lamb prices were down \$3.00 from last month and \$20.00 lower than last year at this time.

The **All Crops Index**, at 110, was up 1 point (1 percent) from July and was up 5 points (5 percent) from last August. Prices for alfalfa hay, other hay, and dry beans were higher than last month, while prices for corn and wheat were lower. Oats remained unchanged. Compared with last year, prices were higher for all crops except dry beans which were down \$9.00 per hundredweight from last year and oats which were unchanged. Corn was down 10 cents from July but up 39 cents from August 2005. Wheat was down 36 cents from July but up 92 cents from last year. Dry beans were up 50 cents from July but down \$9.00 from last year. Alfalfa hay was up \$3.00 per ton from last month and \$11.00 per ton from last year. Other hay was up \$4.00 from July and up \$12.00 from last year.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 120 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (3 percent) from July. The Crop Index was up 3 points (2 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, broilers, tomatoes, and eggs. Lower prices were received for corn, soybeans, sorghum grain, and potatoes.

The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cattle, calves, grapes, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, broilers, and canteloupe.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 4 points (3 percent) from August 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 124, increased 6 points (5 percent) from last month and increased 5 points (4 percent) from August 2005.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, AUGUST 2005, JULY 2006, AND AUGUST 15, 2006 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		AUG 2005	JULY 2006	AUG 15 2006	AUG 2005	JULY 2006	AUG 15 2006	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
Cows	100#	52.10	48.30	49.00	51.40	46.60	46.90	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	107.00	112.00	113.00	87.70	90.40	91.80	—
Calves	100#	135.00	139.00	137.00	133.00	136.00	134.00	50
Sheep	100#	45.10	24.20	23.00	43.00	27.40	1/	—
Lambs	100#	120.00	103.00	100.00	109.00	93.10	1/	—
CROPS								
Corn	Bu.	2.01	2.50	2.40	1.95	2.14	2.03	26
Oats	Bu.	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.49	1.78	1.70	39
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.92	2/	2/	1.77	2.04	2.07	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.07	4.35	3.99	3.24	3.89	3.88	37
Dry Beans	100#	26.50	17.00	17.50	21.40	21.70	20.30	37
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	74.00	82.00	85.00	108.00	113.00	110.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	70.00	78.00	82.00	77.00	89.30	91.50	—

1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996.

2/Insufficient sales to establish a price.

NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.

1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	AUG 2005	JULY 2006	AUG 15 2006	AUG 2005	JULY 2006	AUG 15 2006
All Commodities	125	123	127	116	117	120
All Crops	105	109	110	115	123	126
All Livestock and Products	133	126	133	117	110	115

EXPECTED SUGARBEET PRODUCTION UP 14 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

An updated forecast based on September 1 conditions indicates Wyoming sugarbeet production will be larger than last year. The sugarbeet production forecast is down 3 percent from last month but 14 percent above last year. If realized, this would be the largest sugarbeet production since 2000.

Sugarbeet producers intended to harvest 41,500 acres, down 400 acres from the previous month but up 5,600 acres from last year. The expected average yield was 22.0 tons per acre, down 0.5 ton from the August 1 forecast and 0.3 ton less than the 2005 yield. Total production was expected to be 913,000 tons, 14 percent above 2005 and 12 percent above 2004.

The following forecasts were carried forward from earlier months. Based on August 1 conditions, **barley** production was expected to total 4.73 million bushels, which would be down 15 percent from last year's crop and 33 percent below 2004. **Dry bean** production in 2005, at 594,000 hundredweight, was expected to drop 23 percent from 2005 but increase 10 percent from 2004 based on conditions as of August 1. The August 1 forecast for **alfalfa hay** was 1.44 million tons, down 4 percent from last year but up 10 percent from 2004. Production of **all other hay** is expected to be 561,000 tons, 20 percent below last year and 26 percent below 2004.

UNITED STATES: **Corn** production is forecast at 11.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and fractionally above 2005. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record, behind 2004. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from August and 6.8 bushels from last year. Average yield would also be the second largest on record.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 32.4 million tons, 2 percent above the August forecast and 18 percent above last year's production. This would be the largest production since 2000. Growers in the 11 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.34 million acres, down fractionally from last month but 8 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 24.1 tons per acre, up 0.4 ton from August and 1.9 tons above 2005.

ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2005; ACREAGE AND SEPTEMBER 1 FORECASTS 2006

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		
	2005	2006	2005	Sept 2006	2005	Sept 2006	2005	Sept 2006	06/05 %
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		1,000				
WYOMING									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	80	90	49	58	140.0	2/	6,860	2/	
Winter Wheat (bu)	160	150	145	135	30.0	3/	4,350	3/	
Spring Wheat (bu)	9	10	7	8	45.0	3/	315	3/	
Oats (bu)	55	50	12	12	50.0	3/	600	3/	
Barley (bu)	75	65	60	55	93.0	86.0 4/	5,580	4,730 4/	85%
Sugarbeets (tons)	36.2	42.8	35.9	41.5	22.3	22.0	801	913	114%
Dry Beans (cwt)	34.0	29.0	33.0	27.0	23.5	22.0 4/	776	594 4/	77%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—		600	600	2.50	2.40 4/	1,500	1,440 4/	96%
Other Hay (tons)	—		540	510	1.30	1.10 4/	702	561 4/	80%
All Hay (tons)	—		1,140	1,110	1.93	1.80 4/	2,202	2,001 4/	91%
UNITED STATES									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	81,759	79,366	75,107	71,841	147.9	154.7	11,112,072	11,113,766	100%
Winter Wheat (bu)	40,433	41,393	33,794	31,108	44.4	41.2 4/	1,499,129	1,283,134 4/	86%
Spring Wheat (bu)	14,036	14,595	13,609	14,154	37.1	32.7 4/	504,456	463,511 4/	92%
Oats (bu)	4,246	4,312	1,823	1,907	63.0	56.3 4/	114,878	107,423 4/	94%
Barley (bu)	3,875	3,496	3,269	2,990	64.8	61.2 4/	211,896	182,972 4/	86%
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,299.8	1,362.8	1,242.9	1,343.6	22.2	24.1	27,537	32,390	118%
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,665.0	1,607.3	1,568.6	1,519.0	17.44	15.34 4/	27,350	23,301 4/	85%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—		22,389	22,407	3.38	3.18 4/	75,771	71,205 4/	94%
Other Hay (tons)	—		39,260	40,290	1.91	1.77 4/	74,819	71,121 4/	95%
All Hay (tons)	—		61,649	62,697	2.44	2.27 4/	150,590	142,326 4/	95%

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.

2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 2007.

3/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released September 29, 2006.

4/Forecasts carried forward from August.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on August 1, 2006. The inventory was 7 percent above August 1, 2005 and 10 percent above August 1, 2004. This is the second highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.96 million, 17 percent above 2005 and 14 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.91 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 570,000, 600-699 pounds were 403,000, 700 799 pounds were 490,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 500,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.96 million, 2 percent above 2005 and 2 percent above 2004.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during July, 5 percent below 2005 but unchanged from 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST, 2005-2006 1/

State	On Feed July 1, 2006	Place- ments July 2006	Market- ings July 2006	Other Disapp. July 2006	On Feed Aug 1, 2006	On Feed Aug 1, 2005
Thousand Head						
CO	980	150	180	10	940	820
KS	2,280	590	495	15	2,360	2,190
NE	1,990	380	410	10	1,950	1,730
TX	2,980	480	480	10	2,970	2,890
Oth Sts.	2,642	363	390	13	2,602	2,463
U.S.	10,872	1,963	1,955	58	10,822	10,093

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

WYOMING: Commercial red meat production in Wyoming during July 2006 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 5 percent from the previous month and down 13 percent from July 2005. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in July, down 100 from last year. Total live weight was 719,000 pounds, down 12 percent from July 2005. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,184 pounds, down 4 pounds from last year.

A total of 300 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, also down 100 from last July. Total live weight, at 76,000 pounds, was down 23 percent from July 2005. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 260 pounds, down 1 pound from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in July, unchanged from July 2005. Live weight totaled 19,000 pounds, up 6,000 pounds from last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 141 pounds, up 4 pounds from a year earlier.

Red Meat production from January to July 2006 totaled 3.4 million pounds, down 11 percent from the same period last year.

United States: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in July, up 5 percent from the 3.61 billion pounds produced in July 2005.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from July 2005. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from the previous year to 1,272 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.88 million head, 3 percent above July 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.2 million pounds, was down 1 percent from July 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,100 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2006 commercial red meat production was 27.1 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JULY 2005 AND 2006, Wyoming and U.S.

SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	July 2005	July 2006	July 2005	July 2006	% 06/05	July 2005	July 2006	July 2005	July 2006	% 06/05
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
Cattle	700	600	814	719	88	2,717,500	2,834,300	3,406,482	3,604,618	106
Hogs	400	300	99	76	77	7,662,200	7,884,800	2,025,470	2,090,113	103
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	13	19	146	199,900	202,100	26,801	26,465	99



MORE AG WORKERS IN THE REGION; FEWER IN THE U.S.

WYOMING: The number of hired workers on farms and ranches in the tri-state region during the week of July 9-15, 2006 was up 3 percent from a year ago. During this period, 30,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. The number of hired workers a year earlier was 29,000. Of this year's 30,000 hired workers, 21,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 9,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 20,000 and 9,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 42.3, compared with 45.0 last year and 44.1 in April 2006.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$9.14 per hour, up 35 cents (4 percent) from last year, but down 8 cents (1 percent) from April 2006. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$8.41 per hour compared with \$8.39 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$9.06 per hour compared with \$8.51 last year.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,202,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2006, down 11 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators.

Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 327,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.74 per hour during the July 2006 reference week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.95 per hour, up 34 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.56 per hour compared with \$9.26 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.10 per hour, was up 32 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked by hired workers during the survey week averaged 40.9 hours, up 1 percent from a year ago.

**Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker,
Regions and U.S., July 9-15, 2006 1/**

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
	Dollars per hour			
Mntn I 2/	8.41	9.06	8.74	9.14
Mntn II 3/	8.33	8.89	8.55	9.34
No Plns 4/	8.94	9.92	9.28	9.60
U.S. 5/	8.95	9.56	9.10	9.74

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North &
South Dakota
5/ Excludes Alaska